

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14 (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) Device (10, 22) for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of a thorax having a fracture or a rib having a fracture ~~fractures~~, wherein the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises:

a flat single-piece splint element (12, 24) ~~being that is rigid in itself, the splint element being structured and arranged to cover an area including:~~

said fractured rib or said fractured thorax ~~and covering a large part of the fracture area (19) including the fractured rib (16)~~ on both sides of the fracture (14); and

in a case of said fractured rib, at least the neighboring ribs (15, 17), and in a case of said fractured thorax, a neighboring non-fractured part of the thorax; and

wherein a ~~and that the~~ side of the immobilizing device (10, 22) provided for facing the body fracture comprises ~~is provided with~~ an appropriate adhesive layer (11, 26) for adhering the

immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body.

16. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the splint element (12, 24) can be fitted on ~~the an~~ outside contour of the thorax without any additional aid or tool.

17. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the splint element (12, 24) ~~consists of~~ comprises a plastically deformable plastic plate.

18. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the splint element (12, 24) ~~consists of~~ comprises a plastically deformable metal plate.

19. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 18 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plastically deformable metal plate ~~is made of~~ comprises aluminium.

20. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 19 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plastically deformable metal plate is corrugated ~~in order to improve the local deformability enlarging at the same time the rigidity, where the crests of the corrugations in the plate being provided to run essentially parallel to the fractured ribs to be treated.~~

21. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the splint element (12, 24) is provided with a covering (23, 25) on ~~its~~ at least one of an upper and/or lower surface of the splint element.

22. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 21 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering (23, 25) ~~at the upper and/or lower surface consists of~~ comprises a tissue or ~~of an elastic, preferably open-pored foam.~~

23. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the immobilizing device ~~it~~ is provided with a protecting foil (27) for protecting a covering of ~~the upper~~ upper side of the splint element (12, 24).

24. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 23 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protecting foil (27) over the splint element (12, 24) ~~is developed so that it is~~ larger than the splint element so as to form ~~on the sides forming thereby~~ a surrounding rim (28) as a strip, ~~and that the~~ protecting foil (27) ~~is~~ being provided with an adhesive layer on ~~its~~ bottom side thereof.

25. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to

claim 24 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises also a local analgesic agent.

26. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 25 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the analgesic agent is contained in a pad or cushion contacted to the immobilizing device (10, 22) via a releasable bond.

27. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 25 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least part ~~parts~~ of the adhesive layer (11, 26) ~~or the whole adhesive layer (11, 26)~~ is provided with an analgesic agent.

28. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the splint element (12, 24) is provided with holes, ~~e.g. in form of a perforation.~~

29. (currently amended) Device (10, 22) for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of a thorax having a fracture or a rib having a fracture, fractures, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises:

a flat splint element (12, 24) being that is rigid in itself, the splint element being structured and arranged to cover and covering a large part of the fracture; area (19), that
wherein the a side of the immobilizing device (10, 22)

provided for facing the body fracture comprises ~~is provided with~~
an appropriate adhesive layer (11, 26) for adhering the
immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body; ~~that~~

wherein the splint element (12, 24) consists of a
plastically deformable metal corrugated aluminum plate, ~~that the~~
~~plastically deformable metal plate is made of aluminium, and that~~
~~the plastically deformable metal plate is corrugated in order to~~
~~improve the local deformability enlarging at the same time the~~
~~rigidity, where the crests of the corrugations in the plate being~~
provided so as to run essentially parallel to the fractured ribs
~~to be treated.~~

30. (currently amended) Device (10, 22) for analgesic
immobilization for use in cases of a thorax having a fracture or
a rib having a fracture, fractures, characterized in that wherein
the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises:

a flat splint element (12, 24) being that is rigid in
itself, the splint element being structured and arranged to cover
~~and covering a large part of the fracture; area (19), that~~

wherein the a side of the immobilizing device (10, 22)
provided for facing the body fracture comprises ~~is provided with~~
an appropriate adhesive layer (11, 26) for adhering the
immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body; ~~that~~

~~wherein and that it is provided with the device comprises a~~
protecting foil (27) for protecting a covering of the an upper

side of the splint element.

31. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 30 characterized in that the protecting foil (27) over splint element (12, 24) is developed so that it is larger on the sides forming thereby a surrounding rim (28) as a strip, and that the protecting foil (27) is provided with an adhesive layer on its bottom side.

32. (new) Device for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of a rib having a fracture, wherein the immobilizing device comprises:

a rigid, flat splint element, the splint element being structured and arranged to cover an area of a body including both said fractured rib on both sides of the fracture as well as neighboring ribs; and

an adhesive layer provided on a side of the immobilizing device facing the fracture for adhering the immobilizing device to the body over the fracture, so that when the device is adhered to the body to cover the fracture and neighboring ribs, the device keeps the fractured rib in a fixed position relative to the neighboring ribs.

33. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 32 wherein the splint element comprises a plastically deformable plastic

plate.

34. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 32 wherein the splint element comprises a plastically deformable metal plate.

35. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 34 wherein the plastically deformable metal plate comprises aluminium.

36. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 35 wherein the plastically deformable metal plate is corrugated.

37. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 32 wherein the immobilizing device further comprises a analgesic agent.

38. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 37 wherein the local analgesic agent is disposed in the adhesive layer.

39. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 29, wherein the device is constructed and arranged so that when adhered to a body to cover the fracture in the rib as well neighboring uninjured ribs, the device keeps the fractured rib in a fixed position relative to the neighboring uninjured ribs.

40. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 30, wherein

the device is constructed and arranged so that when adhered to a body to cover the fracture in the rib as well neighboring uninjured ribs, the device keeps the fractured rib in a fixed position relative to the neighboring uninjured ribs.